A Short VIEW OF THE STATE OF IRELAND.

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A

Short View, &c.

I Am assured that it hath for some time been practised as a method of making Men's Court, when they are asked about the Rate of Lands, the Abilities of Tenants, the State of Trade and Manufacture in this Kingdom, and how their Rents are payed; to Answer, That in their Neighbourhood all things are in a flourishing Condition, the Rent and Purchase of Land every Day encreasing. And if a Gentleman happens to be a little more sincere in his Representations, besides being looked on as not well affected, he is sure to have a Dozen Con-

dictors at his Elbow. I think it is no manner of Secret why these Questions are so cordially asked, or so obligingly Answered.

But since with Regard to the Affairs of this Kingdom, I have been using all Endeavours to subdue my Indignation, to which indeed I am not provoked by any Personal Intereſt, being not the Owner of one Spot of Ground in the whole *Island*, I shall only enumerate by Rules generally known, and never Contradicted, what are the true Causes of any Countries flouriſhing and growing Rich, and then examine what Effects arise from those Causes in the Kingdom of *Ireland*.

The first Cause of a Kingdom's thriving is the Fruitfulneſs of the Soyl, to produce the Neceſſaries and Conveniencies of Life, not only sufficient for the Inhabitants, but for Exportation into other Countries.

The Second, is the Induſtry of the People in Working up all their Native Commodities to the last degree of Manufacture.

The Third, is the Conveniency of safe Ports and Havens, to Carry out their own Goods, as much manufactured, and bring in those of others, as little manufactured as the Nature of mutual Commerce will allow.

The Fourth, is, That the Natives should as much as possible, Export and Import their Goods in Vessels of their own Timber, made in their own Country. The

The Fifth, is the Liberty of a free Trade in all Foreign Countries, which will permit them, except to thoſe who are in War with their own Prince or State.

The Sixth, is, by being Governed only by Laws made with their own Conſent, for otherwiſe they are not a free People. And therefore all Appeals for Juſtice, or Applications, for Favour or Preferment to another Country, are ſo many grievous Impoveriſhments.

The Seventh, is, by Improvement of Land, encouragement of Agriculture, and thereby encreaſing the Number of their People, without which any Country, however Bleſſed by Nature, muſt continue Poor.

The Eighth, is the Reſidence of the Princes, or Chief Adminiſtrators of the Civil Power.

The Ninth, is the Concourſe of Foreigners for Education, Curioſity or Pleaſure, or as to a general Mart of Trade.

The Tenth, is by diſpoſing all Offices of Honour, Profit or Truſt, only to the Natives, or at leaſt with very few Exceptions, where Strangers have long Inhabited the Country, and are ſuppoſed to Underſtand, and regard the Intereſt of it as their own.

The Eleventh is, when the Rents of Lands, and Profits of Employments are ſpent in the Country which produced them, and not

in another, the former of which will certainly happen, where the Love of our Native Country prevails.

The Twelfth, is by the publick Revenues being all Spent and Employed at Home, except on the Occaſions of a Foreign War.

The Thirteenth, is, where the People are not obliged, unleſs they find it for their own Intereſt, or Conveniency, to receive any Monies, except of their own Coynage by a publick Mint, after the manner of all Civilized Nations.

The Fourteenth, is a Diſpoſition of a People of a Country to wear their own Manufactures, and Import as few Incitements to Luxury, either in Cloaths, Furniture, Food or Drink, as they poſſibly can live conveniently without.

There are many other Cauſes of a Nation's thriving, which I cannot at preſent recollect, but without Advantage from at leaſt ſome of theſe; after turning my Thoughts a long time, I am not able to diſcover from whence our Wealth proceeds, and therefore would gladly be better informed. In the mean time, I will here examine what ſhare falls to *Ireland* of theſe Cauſes, or of the Effects and Conſequences.

It is not my Intention to complain, but barely to relate Facts, and the matter is not

of

of ſmall Importance. For it is allowed, that a Man who lives in a Solitary Houſe far from help, is not Wiſe in endeavouring to acquire in the Neighbourhood, the Reputation of being Rich, becauſe thoſe who come for Gold, will go off with Pewter and Braſs, rather than return empty; and in the common Practice of the World, thoſe who poſſeſs moſt Wealth, make the leaſt Parade, which they leave to others, who have nothing elſe to bear them out, in ſhewing their Faces on the *Exchange*.

As to the firſt Cauſe of a Nation's Riches, being the Fertility of the Soyl, as well as Temperature of Clymate, we have no Reaſon to complain; for although the Quantity of unprofitable Land in this Kingdom, reckoning Bog, and Rock, and barren Mountain, be double in Proportion to what it is in *England*, yet the Native Productions which both Kingdoms deal in, are very near on equality in point of Goodneſs, and might with the ſame Encouragement be as well manufactured, I except Mines and Minerals, in ſome of which however we are only defective in point of Skill and Induſtry.

In the Second, which is the Induſtry of the People, our misfortune is not altogether owing to our own Fault, but to a million of Diſcouragements.

The conveniency of Ports and Havens which Nature beſtowed us ſo liberally is of no more uſe to us, than a beautiful Proſpect to a Man ſhut up in a Dungeon.

As to Shipping of it's own, this Kingdom is ſo utterly unprovided, that of all the excellent Timber cut down within theſe fifty or ſixty Years, it can hardly be ſaid that the Nation hath received the Benefit of one valuable Houſe to dwell in, or one Ship to Trade with.

Ireland is the only Kingdom I ever heard or read of, either in ancient or modern Story, which was denyed the Liberty of exporting their native Commodities and Manufactures wherever they pleaſed, except to Countries at War with their own Prince or State, yet this by the Superiority of meer Power is refuſed us in the moſt momentous parts of Commerce, beſides an Act of Navigation to which we never conſented, pinned down upon us, and rigorouſly executed, and a thouſand other unexampled Circumſtances as grievous as they are invidious to mention. To go unto the Reſt.

It is too well known that we are forced to obey ſome Laws we never conſented to, which is a Condition I muſt not call by it's true unconverted Name for fear of my *L—C—J—W—*'s Ghoſt with his *LIBERTAS ET NATALE*

NATALE SOLUM, written as a Motto on his Coach, as it ſtood at the Door of the Court, while he was Perjuring himſelf to betray both. Thus, we are in the Condition of Patients who have Phyſick ſent them by Doctors at a Diſtance, Strangers to their Conſtitution, and the nature of their Diſeaſe: And thus, we are forced to pay five hundred *per Cent* to divide our Properties, in all which we have likewiſe the Honour to be diſtinguiſhed from the whole Race of Mankind.

As to improvement of Land, thoſe few who attempt that or Planting, through Covetouſneſs or want of Skill, generally leave things worſe than they were, neither ſucceeding in Trees nor Hedges, and by running into the fancy of Grazing after the manner of the *Scythians*, are every Day depopulating the Country.

We are ſo far from having a King to reſide among us, that even the Viceroy is generally abſent four Fifths of his time in the Government.

No Strangers from other Countries make this a part of their Travels, where they can expect to ſee nothing but Scenes of Miſery and Deſolation.

Thoſe who have the Misfortune to be born here, have the leaſt Title to any conſiderable Employment, to which they are ſeldom preferred, but upon a Political Conſideration.

One

One third part of the Rents of *Ireland* is ſpent in *England*, which with the Profit of Employments, Penſions, Appeals, Journeys of Pleaſure or Health, Education at the *Inns* of Court, and both Univerſities, Remittances at Pleaſure, the Pay of all Superior Officers in the Army and other Incidents, will amount to a full half of the Income of the whole Kingdom, all clear profit to *England*.

We are denyed the Liberty of Coining Gold, Silver, or even Copper. In the Iſle of *Man*, they Coin their own Silver, every petty Prince, Vaſſal to the *Emperor* can Coin what Money he pleaſeth. And in this as in moſt of the Articles already mentioned, we are an exception to all other States or Monarchies that were ever known in the World.

As to the laſt, or Fourteenth Article, we take ſpecial Care to Act diametrically contrary to it in the whole Courſe of our Lives. Both Sexes, but eſpecially the Women deſpiſe and abhor to wear any of their own Manufactures, even thoſe which are better made than in other Countries, particularly a ſort of Silk Plad, through which the Workmen are forced to run a ſort of Gold-thread that it may paſs for *Indian*. Even Ale and Potatoes in great quantity are Imported from *England* as well as Corn, and our foreign Trade is little more than Importation of *French* Wine, for which I am told we pay ready Money.

Now

Now if all this be true, upon which I could eaſily enlarge, I would be glad to know by what ſecret method it is that we grow a Rich and Flouriſhing People, without Liberty, Trade, Manufactures, Inhabitants, Money, or the privilege of Coining; without Induſtry, Labour or Improvement of Lands, and with more than half of the Rent and Profits of the whole *Kingdom*, Annually exported, for which we receive not a ſingle Farthing: And to make up all this, nothing worth mentioning, except the Linnen of the *North* a Trade caſual corrupted and at Mercy, and ſome Butter from *Cork*. If we do flouriſh, it muſt be againſt every Law of Nature and Reaſon, like the Thorn at *Glaſſenbury*, that bloſſoms in the midſt of Winter.

Let the worthy *C——rs* who come from *England* ride round the Kingdom, and obſerve the face of Nature, or the faces of the Natives, the Improvement of the Land, the thriving numerous Plantations, the noble Woods, the abundance and vicinity of Country-Seats, the commodious Farmers-Houſes and Barns, the Towns and Villages, where every body is buſy and thriving with all kind of Manufactures, the Shops full of Goods wrought to Perfection, and filled with Cuſtomers, the comfortable Dyet and Dreſs, and Dwellings of the People, the vaſt Numbers of Ships in our Harbours

Harbours and Docks, and Shipwrights in our Seaport-Towns. The Roads crouded with Carryers laden with rich Manufactures, the perpetual Concourſe to and fro of pompous Equipages.

With what Envy and Admiration would theſe Gentlemen return from ſo delightful a Progreſs? What glorious Reports would they make when they went back to *England*?

But my Heart is too heavy to continue this Journey longer, for it is manifeſt that whatever Stranger took ſuch a Journey, would be apt to think himſelf travelling in *Lapland* or *Iſland*, rather than in a Country ſo favoured by Nature as Ours, both in Fruitfulneſs of Soyl, and Temperature of Climate. The miſerable Dreſs, and Dyet, and Dwelling of the People. The general Deſolation in moſt parts of the Kingdom. The old Seats of the Nobility and Gentry all in Ruins, and no new Ones in their ſtead. The Families of Farmers who pay great Rents, living in Filth and Naſtineſs upon Butter-milk and Potatoes, without a Shoe or Stocking to their Feet, or a Houſe ſo convenient as an *Engliſh* Hog-ſty to receive them. Theſe indeed may be comfortable ſights to an *Engliſh* Spectator, who comes for a ſhort time only *to learn the Language*, and returns back to his own Country,

Country, whither he finds all our Wealth tranſmitted.

Noſtrâ miſeriâ magnus es.

There is not one Argument uſed to prove the Riches of *Ireland*, which is not a logical Demonſtration of it's Poverty. The Riſe of our Rents is ſqueeſed out of the very Blood and Vitals, and Cloaths, and Dwellings of the Tenants who live worſe than *Engliſh* Beggars. The lowneſs of Intereſt in all other Countries a ſign of Wealth is in us a proof of miſery, there being no Trade to employ any Borrower. Hence alone comes the Dearneſs of Land, ſince the Savers have no other way to lay out their Money. Hence the Dearneſs of Neceſſaries for Life, becauſe the Tenants cannot afford to pay ſuch extravagant Rates for Land (which they muſt take, or go a begging) without raiſing the Price of Cattle, and of Corn, although they ſhould live upon Chaff. Hence our encreaſe of Buildings in this City, becauſe Workmen have nothing to do but employ one another, and one half of them are infallibly undone. Hence the daily encreaſe of *Bankers*, who may be a neceſſary Evil in a Trading Country, but ſo ruinous in Ours, who for their private Advantage have ſent away all our Silver, and one third of our Gold, ſo that within three Years paſt, the

running

running Caſh of the Nation, which was a
bout Five hundred thouſand Pounds, is now
leſs than two, and muſt daily diminiſh unleſs
we have Liberty to Coin, as well as that
important Kingdom the Iſle of *Man*, and
the meaneſt Prince in the *German Empire*
as I before obſerved.

I have ſometimes thought, that this
Paradox of the Kingdom growing Rich, is
chiefly owing to thoſe worthy Gentlemen
the BANKERS, who, except ſome Cuſtom-
houſe Officers, Birds of Paſſage, oppreſſive
thrifty 'Squires, and a few others that ſhall
be Nameleſs, are the only thriving People
among us: And I have often wiſhed that a
Law were enacted to hang up half a Dozen
Bankers every Year, and thereby interpoſe at
leaſt ſome ſhort Delay, to the further Ruin
of *Ireland*.

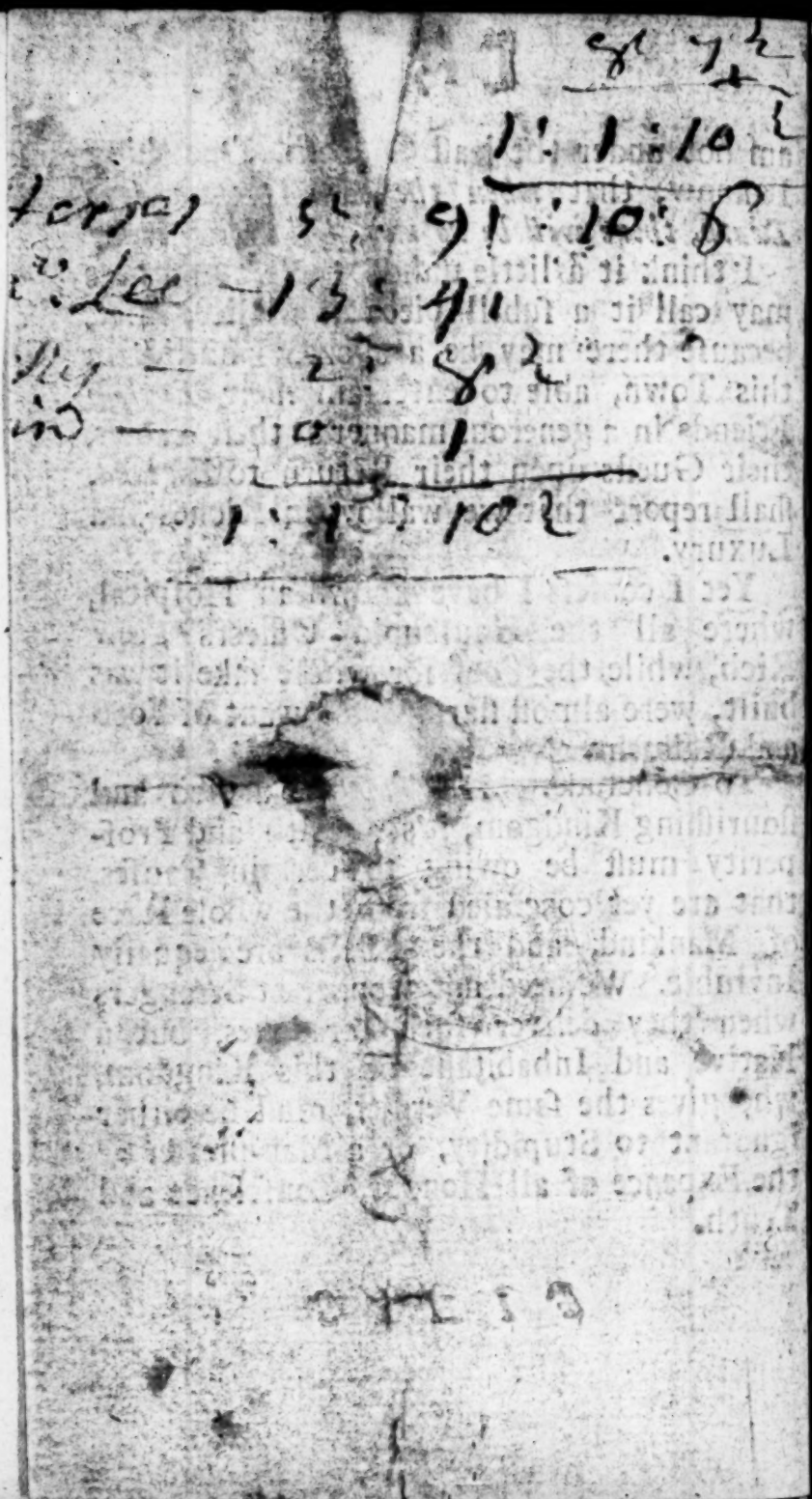
Ye are idle, ye are idle, anſwered *Pharoah*
to the *Iſraelites*, when they complained to
his MAJESTY, that they were forced to
make Bricks without Straw.

England enjoys every one of theſe Advan-
tages for enriching a Nation, which I have
above enumerated, and into the Bargain, a
good Million returned to them every Year
without Labour of Hazard, or one Farthing
value received on our ſide. But how long
we ſhall be able to continue the payment, I

am not under the leaſt Concern. One thing I know, that *when the Hen is ſtarved to Death, there will be no more Golden Eggs.*

I think it a little unhoſpitable, and others may call it a ſubtil piece of Malice, that, becauſe there may be a Dozen Families in this Town, able to entertain their *Engliſh* Friends in a generous manner at their Tables, their Gueſts upon their Return to *England*, ſhall report that we wallow in Riches and Luxury.

Yet I confeſs I have known an Hoſpital, where all the Houſehold Officers grew Rich, while the Poor for whoſe ſake it was built, were almoſt ſtarving for want of Food and Raiment.

To Conclude. If *Ireland* be a rich and flouriſhing Kindgom, it's Wealth and Proſperity muſt be owing to certain Cauſes, that are yet concealed from the whole Race of Mankind, and the Effects are equally Inviſible. We need not wonder at Strangers when they deliver ſuch Paradoxes, but a Native and Inhabitant of this Kingdom, who gives the ſame Verdict, muſt be either ignorant to Stupidity, or a Man-pleaſer at the Expence of all Honour, Conſcience and Truth.

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